



Mystery Tokens

Part 3

by
Ron Benice

Here is the third group of tokens whose historical information has eluded me. Readers of *Alaskan Token Collector* and *Polar Numismatist* are challenged to come up with information about the owners or businesses named on the tokens listed below.

Ron Greene really outdid himself tracking down the story of D. Zarelli (ATCPN December 2001) from the first group of mystery tokens.

The list of Douglas mystery tokens that appeared in the September, 2001 issue of ATC&PN appears to have stumped the subscribers in the Juneau-Douglas area. George Kritchen of Cordova found information on four tokens. His finding ads for Thos. Davis as proprietor of the Mint 1914-17 enabled me to go back and find that Davis operated a saloon in Cordova starting in 1908. Cordova readers get another chance with a challenge from Eyak. And hopefully the ATC&PN "hometown" readers will help with the Fairbanks tokens.

Dyea

P. & K. In 1898 I found Perkins & Sharon and I found Volkman & Knight. Can anyone find Perkins and Knight together?

W.A. & H. This token (which, incidentally, is no longer R8 or R7) requires you to guess whether it represents two names or three. If two, the W.A. is probably 1898 merchant William Allen. If three, then W.A. is probably Weisman and Anhalt who operated a saloon and hotel in 1898. The H. could be Healy, Herron or Holmon. But which of these, if any, is it?

Eyak

B.N. & Co. Could this be Bruno Naumann who operated a pool hall in Talkeetna in the 20s and 30s?

Fairbanks

Benson - Pioneer Well This is Fairbanks 46A. He needs a first name and dates of ownership.

Bill's Place He needs a last name. Since "Fairbanks" is not on the token, maybe we're looking in the wrong place. In 1935 there was a restaurant owned by William Harris in Fairbanks ... but was it called Bill's Place?

Idle Hour Club I found one from 1952 onward, but the tokens are much older.

Judy's Place Again, we need a last name for Judy. The June 1979 issue of ATC&PN reported this was a gift shop in the mid-1950s.

G.F. Mayhood Another mystery with us since 1979. What was his business and when did it operate?

(continued on page 3)

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our 24th year! Hard to believe, isn't it?

Once again our thanks go to Ron Benice for his **Mystery Token** series. From a purely selfish standpoint, this series has reduced your editor's work level, not only with the publication of the "inquiry", but also with the responses from our readers. From a non-selfish standpoint, this is a good thing. If all you have to read is my ramblings and what research I do, the newsletter gets stale.

As many of you know, my personal interests have narrowed to Yukon and Tierra del Fuego. They have expanded a bit now, to include Patagonia. In that light, you will find a short piece on a token from Chilean Patagonia. This does not meet our geographical criteria as noted on the front page, but then again, neither does Juneau, Alaska!

Looking forward to future issues, we have excerpts from publications that mention and shed light on token issuers, an article about Tony's Recreation by the owner, and articles to be written about Antarctic medals, and two previously unreported tokens from Tierra del Fuego. We will endeavor to present a balance in each issue.

I received a couple of kind notes with renewals concerning my son. Just to update those interested, he moved out into an apartment with friends the first of November. This is a good thing. He is doing well in the Culinary Arts program and in life. The distance has created an adult rather than parent/child relationship. It may not look like we wanted it to, but it is working!

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YUKON WORLD CUP 1981

This interesting scrimshawed "medal" appeared on eBay a short time ago. It is scrimmed on a cross section of caribou antler.



The front is etched "World Cup 1981 Yukon" while the back says "Cross Country Ski Championships" and presumably the artist's name "Seeley."

The World Cup Cross Country Ski Championship finals were held in Whitehorse in 1981. The winner of the men's competition was Thomas Wassberg of Sweden. The championships were sponsored by Cyprus-Anvil Mining Corporation. The following is from <http://www.faro.yk.net/history.html>, the home page of Faro, Yukon.

"Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation. The mine opened officially in 1969, and Cyprus Anvil quickly became the largest private sector employer in the Territory. It also represented well over a third of the economy of Yukon, and by the mid 1970's was the largest lead/zinc mine in Canada. At one point, for a brief period, it was even the largest operating open-pit lead/zinc mine in the world!

"For a variety of reasons, Cyprus Anvil was forced to cease operations in 1984. The mine changed hands twice following Cyprus Anvil's closure (Dome Petroleum was the owner briefly), but it wasn't until 1986 that Curragh Resources was formed and resumed operations on the site. Curragh continued mining until the mid 1990's but due to world metal prices, and the Westray disaster, Curragh was forced to declare bankruptcy. The mine again closed and Anvil Range Mining re-opened the mine in 1995, and ran the mine until 1997. The mine is currently closed awaiting a new investor in the operation."

The economy of the Yukon has taken several hits in the resource development area in addition to the closure at Faro. The silver mines at Keno are closed, and the depressed price of gold makes has closed many of the territory's mines, both large and small.

Mystery Tokens, Cont.

Red White & Blue Cigar Store An attractive token with a patriotic name. But I can't find an owner or date of operation.

Smoke House Can anyone smoke out any information on this one?

Supreme Dairy Those that aren't worn smooth are good for a pint of milk. But when?

Union Club Vanished without a trace.

Working Man's Bar 65¢ is an unusual denomination for a pre-statehood Alaska token. It does say Fairbanks on it but maybe it's from another state. Can anyone find evidence of it in Alaska?



Flat

William Kruhm Fernald-McDowell attributed this maverick to Flat circa 1917. Can anyone find hard evidence to support their attribution?

Fort Richardson

Verne Sundquist Barber Shop I'd like to know when he was in business giving his \$1.40 haircuts.



Fox

? Soft Spring Water This is probably the most mysterious of the listed mystery tokens. Nobody has been able to come up with the name of the business that appears on the token. The best known specimen is illustrated in *Rubles to Statehood* and shows the first four letters to be BORR. We're looking for a nine-letter name.

To be continued ...

COMPAÑIA EXPLOTADORA DEL BAKER



The Compania Explotadora del Baker was organized to raise cattle in the southern Patagonian region in the far south of Chile, on the Baker River in the vicinity of the town of Cochrane.

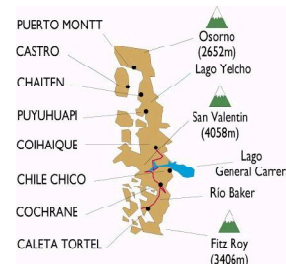
The company was formed by wealthy entrepreneurs from Punta Arenas, among them Mauricio Braun (see the April 2000 issue of ATC&PN) and Lucas Bridges, author of *Uttermost Part of the Earth*, who was the on site manager beginning in 1908, and also had extensive properties on Tierra del Fuego.



Research on the internet indicates that Compania Explotadora del Baker filed bankruptcy in 1911, but was replaced by Hobbs & Company. Braun and Bridges were principles of this company, and Bridges administered the property for three decades. It must be noted that different sources give different dates for these events.

If you search the internet for the Baker River in Chile, you learn that it is one of the finest trout streams in South America, with lodges catering to the serious angler.

The token illustrated here is pressed in black vulcanite, and is 20mm in diameter. This is a very low denomination, and it is probable that higher denominations exist.

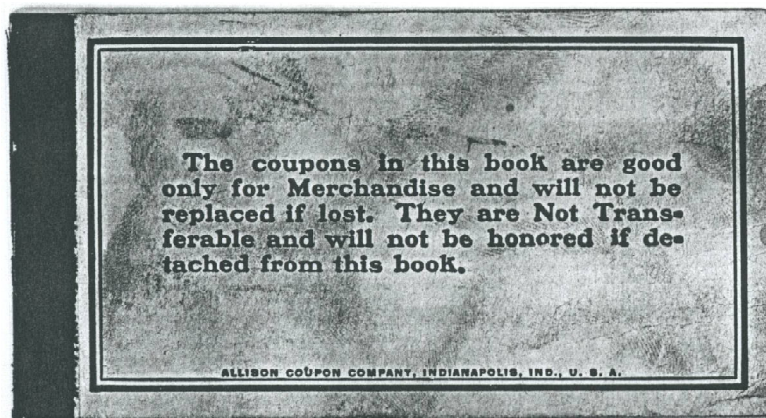


PAPER POTPOURRI

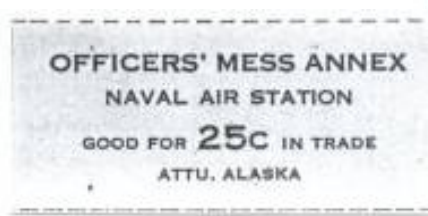
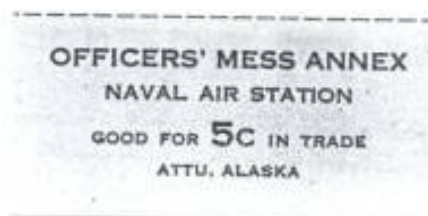


Kennecott Copper Corporation: Chit booklet dated 1918. Unfortunately, the chits were all used and do not accompany the booklet. The booklet was issued to Lawrence Eddy, and Mr. Eddy took the care to record what was purchased on the ledger page provided inside the booklet. Just your everyday staples; Cocoa, honey, cherries, cornmeal, milk, eggs, syrup, pears, apples, rice, etc.

Below is the back cover, and one of the ledger pages. The front cover is illustrated actual size. The back cover and the ledger page is reduced.



Date	Article	Amount
Oct 1	Cocoa	60
"	Honey	40
"	Cherries	40
"	Cornmeal	1 00
"	Crack	35
"	Milk	30
"	Eggs	60
"	Syrup	1 00
"	Pears	30
"	Apples	60
"	Bananas	50
"	Honey	40
"	Salt	10
"	C. F. Food	40
"	Rice	30
"	Cornmeal	30



ATTU: Officer's Open Mess, Naval Air Station, Attu, Alaska. 5c and 25c, approximately 57mm by 26mm, colors not reported.

All items on this page submitted by Joe Usibelli, Jr.

SILVER FOR JANUARY

This month, we offer some silver medals that don't seem to be available very often. All are standard one ounce size (illustrations reduced). Most are only one in stock.

Fairbanks Daily News Miner: 1999 Christmas Ingot \$22.00

Fairbanks Daily News Miner: Undated Christmas Round. Probably 2000 or 2001. \$22.00



Westours Alaska: Set of three honoring the 25th anniversary of Alaska Statehood, 1984. Obverse features the MS. Noordam, MS Nieuw Amsterdam and SS Rotterdam. Nice proof finish, in plastic holder. \$70.00

Westours Alaska: MS Nieuw Amsterdam medal. The finish on these looks polished, but not proof. \$18.00

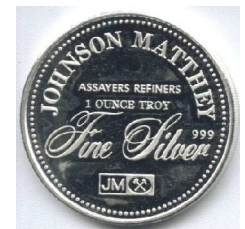


International Circumpolar Conference: Obverse features Eben Hopson. An attractive medal with a whale on the reverse. These seem to be seldom offered. \$25.00

Johnson Matthey: Alaska Statehood, 25th Anniversary. Attractive proof medal with standard JM reverse. \$15.00



Another 25th Anniversary Commemorative! \$15.00



Alaska Highway/Lend Lease 50th Anniversary, 1992: It is always interesting when we manufacture and sell out of a product, and then it comes back in! Our Alaska Highway/Lend Lease medal has been out of stock for several years. \$20.00



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